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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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USDA Forecasts Record-High Soybean Crop

Washington, Oct. 8, 2010 – On the heels of a warm growing season, U.S. soybean production is forecast at a record-high level, according to the *Crop Production* report, released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

Soybean production remains on target for a record-high year and is forecast at 3.41 billion bushels, up 1 percent from the previous record, set in 2009. Soybean yield is expected to average 44.4 bushels per acre, up 0.4 bushels from 2009. If realized this will be the highest yield on record. Soybean growers are expected to harvest a record-high 76.8 million acres, down 1 percent from the September estimate, but up 0.6 percent from last year's acreage.

Corn production is forecast at 12.7 billion bushels, down 3.4 percent from last year's record. Based on Oct. 1 conditions, corn yield is expected to average 155.8 bushels per acre, down 8.9 bushels from 2009. If realized, this will be the third highest yield on record. Growers are expected to harvest 81.3 million acres, up 0.3 percent from the September forecast.

All cotton production is forecast at 18.9 million bales, up 55 percent from last year. This is the first increase in cotton production in the United States since 2005. The cotton yield is forecast at 841 pounds per acre, up 64 pounds from last year. If realized this will be the third largest yield on record.

All orange production for the 2010-2011 season is forecast at 9.06 million tons, up 10 percent from last season. Florida all orange production is forecast at 6.57 million tons, up 9 percent from last season. In California, all orange production is forecast at 2.42 million tons, up 14 percent from last season's final utilization. Texas orange production is forecast at 72,000 tons, up 3 percent from last season.

All NASS reports, including the *Crop Production* report are available online at www.nass.usda.gov.

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